MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 AUGUST 1985

Lebanon

Heavy artillery exchanges continued in Beirut and the surrounding mountains 20 August, according to Beirut radio, which disclosed that 17 people were killed and 85 were wounded in the shelling the previous night, described by security sources as the heaviest fighting in the last 6 months. Contending that the security deterioration is aimed at obstructing the cabinet meeting scheduled for 22 August, an "informed source" cited by the radio noted that the cabinet is expected to request participation by Syrian observers in a security plan to cover greater Beirut, including the combat lines on both sides. Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri called on the "nationalist" forces to stop hesitating in taking "decisive action against Israeli agents at home," the radio reported, and he stressed that military action is now "the sole option for a solution." On the Christian side, Voice of Lebanon radio broadcast a Lebanese Forces Executive Committee statement holding the Amal Movement "fully responsible" for the disruption in the security situation and warning Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party against using violence to achieve "narrow-minded revenge or sectarian gains."

As for the latest car bomb explosion in Tripoli, an anonymous caller to a news agency claimed responsibility on behalf of the "revolutionary Christians of the Cedar," stressing that his group aims to rid Lebanon of all Muslim fundamentalists, AFP noted. In Tehran, Lebanese Hezbollah Leaders Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham discussed the Lebanese situation with Majlis Speaker 'ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials, IRNA disclosed.

Egypt-Israel

The "Revolution of Egypt" organization in a written announcement handed to a news agency claimed responsibility for murdering the administrative attache at the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and wounding his wife and another female embassy employee, Jerusalem radio reported. The announcement said the attack was on Israeli intelligence personnel in Cairo, and it condemned the peace treaty with Israel and noted that the group had earlier asked President Husni Mubarak to cancel it. In a statement reported by MENA, the Egyptian Interior Ministry said it is carrying out intensive investigations to apprehend the assassins, adding that the administrative attache was not among those for whom Egyptian authorities had been asked to provide security guards. The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel said he believed elements outside Egypt were responsible for the assassination, Jerusalem radio reported. Reacting to the attack, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid sent a condolence message to his Israeli counterpart, while former Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil said he hoped the incident would strengthen the conviction to achieve peace in the Middle East, according to IDF Radio. Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres expressed "deep shock" and an expectation that Egypt will do everything necessary to capture the assassins, IDF radio reported, and Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo told the radio that he hoped the attack will not affect the improvement of relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, Damascus radio cited an *AL-BA'TH* commentary that praised the Egyptian "heroes" who "managed to kill one of the Zionists" and declared that "treason will not pass unpunished."

Libya-Tunisia

Tunisia deported 253 Libyans, including diplomats, after receiving "absolute and confirmed" information that they were conducting intelligence activities, according to informed sources cited by Tunis radio. The radio noted in another report that the number of Tunisian workers expelled from Libya as of 20 August reached 21,056. Meanwhile, Tunisia protested to Libya over a Libyan aircraft violating Tunisian airspace 18 August, the radio revealed.

Western Sahara

A Saharan Information Ministry communique cited by APS claimed that Saharan troops killed 270 Moroccan soldiers in a 19 August attack in the Mahbes area.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party, returned to Karachi 21 August with the body of her brother Shah Nawaz, Delhi radio reported, adding that visitors were not allowed within 8 km of the Karachi airport as a security measure.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
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Moscow Meeting Marks DRA Independence Anniversary

LD210814 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0554 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August [date indistinct] BAKHTAR: A grand meeting was held by the Soviet societies of friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries and the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society in Moscow. The meeting was held on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of independence of Afghanistan in the Friendship House in Moscow.

In this function a number of participants delivered speeches about the traditional friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Present at the meeting were president of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society, the employees of Afghan Embassy in Moscow and a number of high-rank employees of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

CSSR, Mongolia, Syria Send Anniversary Messages

LD210727 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0459 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 20, BAKHTAR — Congratulatory messages addressed to Babrak Karmal general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, as well as to Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA have been received here from a number of friendly countries on the occasion of 66th independence anniversary of Afghanistan.

The messages are from the leaders of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Mongolia and Syrian Arab Republic.

The messages express hope for the victories of the people of Afghanistan in defending the gains of the April Revolution of 1978, and their struggle in the undeclared war of imperialism. The prospects for further expansion and development of friendship and cooperation between their governments and peoples with the people and Government of the DRA have been evaluated fruitful in the messages.

Soviets Massed for Offensive in Paktia Province

GF200710 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Afghan mujahidin sources have reported that the invading Soviet forces yesterday shelled areas abutting the province of Paktia, in the southeastern part of Afghanistan, where the Soviets have massed over 30,000 fighters over the past few weeks. This has caused battles to spill over into areas adjacent to the border with Pakistan.

The sources indicated that the new Soviet offensive is designed to cut supply routes of the mujahidin and reduce the frequency of their attacks against Soviet forces.

Civil Defense Units Enroll Workers

LD210743 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 20, BAKHTAR — The General Department of Civil Defence since its inception in 1982 has set up several civil defence headquarters in Kabul, Qandahar, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar, Jowzjan, and Helmand Provinces.

More than 5,800 workers have been mobilised so far in the security and defence units. Increasing numbers of workers and officials are taking part in productive institutions and agricultural farms and simultaneously defend their work places.

Besides, 2,400 persons have been enrolled in the civil defence groups for safeguarding and extracting the Sabzak coal mine, in Herat Province.

Meanwhile, over 1000 of the working people are mobilised in a special civil defence unit to patrol the Sabzak highway of that province.

With the establishment of civil defence groups in productive institutions and agricultural farms the duties of the security and armed forces have been facilitated. For, defence groups have replaced the security forces in the factories and institutions.

In the petroleum and natural gas prospection department in Mazar-e-Sharif, north of the country so far civil defence groups have replaced 5 security units. The process is forging ahead which will be a better reinforcement for the security forces in future as well.

Municipal Elections in Kabul City Conclude

LD200849 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 19, BAKHTAR: Elections were held in 29 constituencies of the muncipal districts No. 1, 6 and 11 of Kabul City today.

One hundred twenty five representatives were elected by the inhabitants of those districts to the local councils of the state power and administration.

Thus, the elections in Kabul City successfully concluded today in a joyous atmosphere, reports the election committee of Kabul City.

The elections will be continuing in Qarabagh District of Kabul Province tomorrow.

Pakistani Police Disperse Border Clash Participants

LD210808 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0449 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 20. BAKHTAR: Nineteen persons were killed and ten others seriously wounded in severe clashes that broke out as members of the criminal bands of Gulbuddin, Jam'iat-e-Eslami and the residents of Alipur district [Pakistan] of Peshawar fought each other on the distribution of drinking water, reports reaching here say.

The reports add that the wrath and indignation of the Pakistani people against rising crimes committed by the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands is assuming new and dangerous dimensions.

The residents of Alipur district, through waging large-scale demonstrations, have appealed to the Pakistani ruling military circles to transfer these unwanted guests to some other place.

According to another report, the Afghan fugitives linked to the criminal Eslami band of Gulbuddin have launched broad protests over the shortage of foodstuffs and the lack of proper shelters. It is stated that the Pakistani police came to the site of the incident and dispersed the demonstrators with batons.

Iran 'Forcibly' Sends DRA Refugees to War Front

LD210735 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0502 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 20, BAKHTAR — The deceived Afghan fugitive families living in Zabol and Zahedan cities of Iran, are under severe pressures of Iranian ruling circles, reports reaching here say.

The Iranian regime, report add, is exerting pressures on them that from every ten families, a young person must be sent to the Iran-Iraq battle front.

The regime has also intensified pressures on the so-called Afghan refugees to join the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands or one of the reactionary organizations of Iran.

Likewise, Irani authorities try hard to prevent the deceived Afghans from returning to their country. The members of those families who are seized by the Iranian security forces on charges of their return to their country, are sent to the camps. The young members are sent to Iran-Iraq war fronts and the rest are sent to prisons where they are faced with inhuman conditions.

The general situation, the reports stress, of Afghan fugitives in Iran territory is very dangerous. The lack of foodstuffs and medicine have caused the outbreak of various diseases including cholera. The healthy persons are forcibly sent to the battle front or are organized in the terrorist Afghan-counter-revolutionary bands.

Reportage on Longowal Assassination, Reaction

Two Assailants Identified

NC201731 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, August 20 (AFP) — Two Sikh youths among the four gunmen who today assassinated the moderate Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal have been identified as Malvinder Singh and Gian Singh, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said.

The agency said that Malvinder Singh was seriously injured after bodyguards returned fire, and has also been admitted to Sangrur Civil Hospital where Mr Longowal was rushed after the attack, PTI said. Both men are from Ludhiana in Punjab and police have recovered the pistols they used to fire at Mr Longowal, the agency said.

There was no immediate word about the identity of the other two killers.

Third Assassin Identified

BK210909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] quoting official sources in Chandigarh says that the third assassin of Sant Longowal has been identified as Jarnail Singh of Halwara village in Ludhiana District. He was believed to have escaped on a motorcycle after the shootout. Two other assassins, Gian Singh and Malvinder Singh, were nabbed at the scene of the shootout at Sherpur Gurdwara [Sikh Temple] in Sangrur last evening. Two revolvers and some ammunition have been recovered from them.

Doctors who performed the post-mortem said that all the bullets which hit the sant pierced through his abdomen, badly rupturing his liver and intestines.

Sikh Group Claims Responsibility

HK211322 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 21 Aug 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 21 (Afp) — A hitherto-unknown Sikh group today claimed responsibility for the murder of moderate Sikh leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal as his state funeral took place in Punjab amid rigid security.

An anonymous caller told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA bureau here that the group, known as "Jarnail Khalsa" was behind the killing, carried out by two Sikh gunmen in a Punjab village yesterday.

The caller said the group, named after the firebrand Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was also behind the killing of a member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the Jalandhar yesterday.

Intelligence sources said they were not aware of the group.

Mr Longowal was given a state funeral today in his Punjab home village named Longowal, attended by thousands of mourners in a winding, four-kilometer (2.5 mile) procession led by one of Sikhdom's five high priests, Pti said.

Suspected Sikh militants shot dead Mr Longowal, 49, in a Punjab village yesterday soon after he ended an address to activists in the Sikh party Akali Dal. Two of them were caught on the spot but police reportedly now believe that two more men involved in the shootout escaped.

The militant All India Sikh Students' Federation (Aissf) said that one of its members, identified as Sabarjeet Singh was arrested by police inside Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple complex here. But police spokesmen were not immediately available for comment.

There was visible tension today in this Sikh holy city — the seat of the Akali Dal of which Mr Longowal captained the moderate faction -- with traders appearing divided in responding to a strike call given by the Akali Dal and the Congress (I) to protest Mr Longowal's killing.

Police reported at least one clash between pro and anti-strikers and an administration official here said that army and paramilitary forces were standing by in the state to aid the police if the need arose.

Mr Longowal signed a peace accord with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on July 24, paving the way for normalcy in this strife-torn northwestern state.

Defence Minister Narasimha Rao and Minister of State for Power Arun Nehru represented the Indian Government at the funeral with Arun Nehru representing the premier.

The agreement left Mr Longowal with the task of reuniting his party in time for State Assembly elections planned for September 22.

Punjab is now under direct rule of federal President Zail Singh who took over in October 1983 amid mounting militant violence stirred by the Sikh autonomy drive.

Major opposition parties today urged the government to put off the polls after yesterday's slaying.

In a joint statement they said the murder of Mr Longowal and recent Punjab assassinations had exposed "ineffective security arrangements" and given a blow to the atmosphere of peace and harmony created by the accord.

Meanwhile, the leader of the militant section of the Akali Dal, Joginder Singh today postponed a meeting slated for the day to discuss the situation arising out of the announcement of state elections here on September 22.

A spokesman for the group said the meeting would now be held on Sunday.

AISSF convener Harinder Singh Kohlon told AFP the killing of Mr Longowal had "proved once and for all that Sikhs in the Punjab had rejected the accord with the Indian Government."

In New Delhi the U.S. Information Service said Washington deplored Mr Longowal's assassination, describing him as a "courageous political figure attempting to promote communal reconciliation."

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in an emotional speech to the lower house of Parliament in Delhi today said his government was determined to fight terrorism and he called on the nation to check forces attempting to disrupt India's unity.

Both houses of Parliament adjourned their sessions for the day without transacting any business, a gesture that has been made for the deaths of non-members only twice before.

Leaders Express Regret

BK210333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, is dead. He was shot at by two youths when he was addressing a meeting in Sherpur Village in Sangrur District yesterday evening. All India Radio correspondent reports that he was brought to the hospital in Sangrur at 1800. All efforts to save the sant's life failed. He was finally declared dead at 2045. One bullet was removed from his arm. Another embedded below his heart could not be extricated because of his physical condition.

Two assailants who fired at the sant were nabbed on the spot. The police have identified them as Malvinder Singh and Gian Singh. One assailant and five others were injured. Besides Mr Longowal, another person was killed.

The sant will be cremated with full state honors this afternoon near Longowal village. The Punjab and Haryana governments and the Chandigarh administration have declared a 2-day state mourning. All government offices and educational institutions in the two states and the union territory will remain closed today as a mark of respect to the sant. An uninterrupted reciation of Gurbani [Sikh religious hymns] is continuing in the hospital room where his body is kept.

The home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, and the parliamentary secretary, Mr Arun Singh, visited the hospital in Sangrur and paid homage. Mr Chavan later told our correspondent that in his death we have lost a great patriot and a true well-wisher of the people of Punjab. He has sacrificed his life for bringing about normalcy and peace in the state.

The Congress-I party is observing a day of mourning today, particularly in Punjab, as a mark of respect to Sant Longowal. The Congress-I Parliamentary Party Executive will meet at 0930 this morning and the general body at 1000 in the central hall of parliament. The union cabinet met last night and mourned his death. In a rare gesture, the cabinet placed on record itsprofound sense of shock and sorrow at the tragic assassination. It called upon the people to rally round the banner of unity and solidarity. The sant's brave and courageous stand made possible the settlement of the Punjab issue, the cabinet noted.

The president and the prime minister have expressed their deep regret over the untimely death of Sant Longowal. In his condolence message, Giani Zail Singh said the death has left a big void which will be difficult to fill. He said the true homage to the slain Akali leader will be to implement forcefully the Punjab accord and follow his policies of unity and communal harmony.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi described the assassination as a tragedy not only for Punjab but the entire country. He called upon the people to uphold the principles for which Sant Longowal made the supreme sacrifice of his life. In this hour of sorrow, we must keep calm and not allow ourselves to be deflected from the path of unity and brotherhood which the sant followed. This will be the best tribute that a bereaved nation can pay to his memory, he said.

The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, who rushed to Sangrur immediately on hearing the news, said it is a tragic moment in the historyc of Punjab. A very brave and committed man has been brutally killed by cowards. His efforts in joining hands with the prime minister to usher in a peaceful and prosperous era in Punjab will always be remembered. The chief minister of Haryana, Mr Bhajan Lal, condemning the assassination said that incident was the saddest because the sant was trying to undo the damage done to Punjab and restore unity and communal amity in the state. The Rajasthan chief minister, Mr Harideo Joshi, has expressed profound shock. A large number of leaders have described the assassination as a dastardly act.

Police have been alerted in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi to ensure maintenance of law and order. If necessary, they can seek the help of the army. In Ludhiana Town, curfew has been imposed in certain areas as a precautionary measure till 0600 tomorrow morning. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, there will, however, be no curfew restrictions on the G.T. Road in the city.

Funeral Procession

BK210915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The body of Sant Longowal was taken from Sangrur in a procession over a kilometer long to his native village Longowal. Senior Akali leaders, including former union agriculture minister Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, were seated in the flower-decked vehicle carrying the body of the sant. The head priest of the Golden Temple, Giani Saheb SINGH, led the procession. All India Radio correspondent reports that the funeral will take place at 1500 [0930 GMT] today.

AFP Reportage

HK210928 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — A funeral procession carrying the body of Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal began its

four-kilometer (2.5 mile) march to a cremation site in Punjab today accompanied by thousands of shouting mourners as the army stood by on full alert.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in an emotional speech to the lower house of Parliament today said his government was determined to fight terrorism and he called on the nation to check forces attempting to disrupt India's unity.

He and other political leaders across India condemned the assassination yesterday of the moderate Sikh leader who had sought peace in Punjab, where autonomy and separatist campaigns had rocked the state with violence.

Both houses of Parliament adjourned their sessions for the day without transacting any business, a gesture that has been made for the deaths of non-members only twice before.

Some Sikh students in New Delhi reportedly damaged eight public buses to protest the killing, and dispersed before police arrived.

No other violence was reported in the nation, but police and paramilitary forces have been put on full alert for possible violence in New Delhi, Punjab and several other states.

The domestic news agencies, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) and PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI), said that Mr. Longowal — who signed a peace accord with Mr. Gandhi last month — was shot by two Sikh gunmen in a Punjab village after speaking at a convention of the Sikh Party, the Akali Dal, which he headed.

One of Mr. Longowal's supporters also died in the cross fire.

The state-run All India Radio said a flower-bedecked vehicle carrying the body of Mr. Longowal, who was considered a saint in the Sikh religion, left his house along a four-kilometre (2.5 mile) route to a cremation site in his village, Longowal, from which he took his name.

Thousands of people marched along, shouting "long live Longowal."

Dignitaries included Kirpal Singh, chief priest of the Akal Takht at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the highest seat in Sikhdom. President Singh sent his military secretary, Air Marshal R.S. Naidu, and Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party sent one of its general secretaries, Rajendra Kumari Vajpayee.

Sikh communities observed stikes, including in Sikh-dominated Punjab where even the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP-Indian People's Party) chapter said it supported the action called by the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, and the Congress (I) chapter, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Government offices and educational institutions in Hindu-dominated Haryana State were closed, and Sikhs in Calcutta observed a general strike, PTI said.

Residents in Punjab reported undercurrents of tension. "There is uncertainity here ... we are worried what will happen and where our state will go now," said Gurdeep Singh, an Amritsar resident.

The pro-militant faction of the Akali Dal announced in Amritsar that it had put off a meeting scheduled for today, PTI said. The meeting, to discuss possible participation in state elections next month, was rescheduled for next Sunday.

The militants had rejected the peace accord and denounced Mr. Longowal as a "traitor."

For the past four years, a section of Sikhs has been mounting a bloody campaign for more autonomy for their rich farming state. The militant faction seeks nothing short of full independence for Punjab.

The murder was a severe setback for Mr. Gandhi, analysts said. Since taking over leadership of this turbulent nation after his mother's assassination — allegedly by Sikh bodyguards — Mr. Gandhi has said that solving the Sikh issue topped his domestic priorities.

As well as signing the accord with Mr. Longowal, Mr. Gandhi had ordered the release of jailed Sikhs, the rehabilitation of Sikh deserters from the Indian Army, and announced elections in the strategic border state, which had been put under federal administration after the local administration failed to control the violence.

Indian newspapers ran banner headlines on the Longowal slaying and a pro-government newspaper, the *NATIONAL HERALD*, said in a front-page editorial "...he has fallen martyr at the hands of conspirators against peace".

The radio said that the industrial center of Ludhiana in Punjab was under a curfew imposed late last night. The Radio did not say why curfew was imposed. It added that the administration had given local police the option of calling in the army's help.

Longowal Cremated

BK211255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The body of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal was cremated in his native village Longowal with full state honors this afternoon. The pyre was lit at Gurdwara [Sikh temple] Kambowal at 1520 by the Akal Takht chief Jathedar Kirpal Singh after religious prayers by the head priest of the Golden Temple Giani Saheb Singh. All India Radio correspondent P.J. Estrehan reports that a large number of people had gathered at the Gurdwara to pay their last respects to the departed leader. A special platform was erected within the Gurdwara premises over which the pyre was lit.

Wreaths were placed on behalf of the president by his military secretary Air Marshal R.S. Nayadu, on behalf of the prime minister By Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and Mr Arun Nehru. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar; the Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh; and the general secretaries of the All India

Congress Committee-I, Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai and Mr G.K. Moopanar, also placed wreaths. Wreaths were also placed on behalf of the Bhartiya Janata Party, Janata Party, CPI, CPI-M and many religious and cultural organizations. Among the senior Akali leaders present at the cremetion were the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Sikh temples management committee] Chief, Mr G.S. Tohra; the former union minister, Mr S.S. Barnala; and the former Punjab minister, Mr Balwant Singh. Among the other senior Sikh leaders were the head priest of the Akal Takht, Giani Pritam Singh; and the jathedar of the Takht, Shri Damdama Saheb Talwandi Tabu.

Punjab Protest Strike Begins

HK210522 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — The army was on full alert in Punjab today as strike action began in the northern state to protest the assassination yesterday of Harchand Singh Longowal, the moderate Sikh leader.

Punjab residents reached by telephone said that the strike call was launched jointly the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the state as Sikhs prepared to bury the revered sant, or holy man.

"There is uncertainty here... we are worried what will happen and where our state will go now," said Gurdeep Singh, an Amritsar resident.

There were no immediate details of the affect of the strike action on daily life in Punjab.

The domestic news agencies, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA and PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said that Mr Longowal — who signed a peace accord with Mr Gandhi last month — was shot by two Sikh gunmen in a village after he spoke at an Akali Dal convention.

He was rushed to a hospital but doctors failed to save him, the agencies said.

Domestic news agencies said that Mr Longowal's funeral was to be held at 3 p.m. (0930 GMT) in his home village in Punjab.

The killing sent shock waves across the country and observers said that it had severely jolted Mr Gandhi's peace policies.

PTI said two young gunmen rose from the crowd and shot the 49-year-old moderate in the stomach in Shivpura village, 250 kilometers (155 miles) northwest of here.

One of Mr Longowal's supporters also died in the cross fire.

All-India Radio reported that all educational institutions and government offices in Punjab were ordered closed today as a mark of respect for the slain Sikh leader.

In two separate incidents yesterday, suspected Sikh gunmen shot dead a Hindu priest near Amritsar and killed a district level leader of the Congress (I) Party in Jalandhar.

The radio said that the industrial center of Ludhiana in Punjab was under a curfew imposed late last night. The radio did not say why curfew was imposed. It added that the administration had given local police the option of calling in the army's help.

There were no reports of fresh violence either in the Punjab or New Delhi, but residents in both places noted undercurrents of tension.

Meanwhile, the militant faction of the Akali Dal headed by Joginder Singh was meeting in Amritsar to review the situation, party sources in Amritsar said.

Joginder Singh, father of the late Sikh firebrand leader, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, assumed leadership of the militants after his son was killed in the June 1984 army assault on Sikhism's holiest shrine — the Golden Temple.

Joginder Singh rejected the July 24 accord signed by Mr Longowal and Mr Gandhi and his supporters dubbed Mr Longowal a "traitor".

Today's meeting was likely to discuss elections slated for Punjab next month September and the overall situation following Mr Longowal's killing.

For the past four years, a section of Sikhs has been mounting a bloody campaign for more autonomy for their rich farming state. The extremist faction seeks nothing short of full independence for Punjab, where the Sikhs are a majority.

The murder was a severe setback for Mr Gandhi, analysts said. Since taking over leadership of this turbulent nation after his mother's assassiantion — allegedly by Sikh bodyguards — Mr Gandhi has said that solving the Sikh issue topped his domestic priorities.

As well as signing the accord with Mr Longowal, Mr Gandhi had ordered the release of jailed Sikhs, the rehabilitation of Sikh deserters from the Indian Army and announced elections in the strategic border state.

Indian newspapers ran banner headlines on the Longowal slaying and a pro-government newspaper, the *NATIONAL HERALD*, said in a front-page editoral "... He has fallen martyr at the hands of conspirators against peace".

Punjab Strike Peaceful

BK211245 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Almost a complete bundh [strike] was observed today in Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh as a mark of respect to Sant Longowal. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the situation in the state is peaceful.

Punjab Election Deferment Urged

BK210754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Opposition leaders in Parliament have urged the government to defer the elections in Punjab. In a joint statement, they said that brutal murder of Sant Longowal and others has given severe blow to the atmosphere of peace and harmony generated by the Punjab accord. Under these circumstances, if the elections are held in the state as scheduled on the 22d of next month, the atmosphere of goodwill created by the accord is likely to be vitiated. The leaders said that priority should be given to the united efforts to restore peace and harmony in Punjab.

Commission Assessing Punjab Elections

BK210911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The election commission has asked the Punjab Government to assess the law and order situation again and report immediately. The chief election commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, told newsmen in New Delhi that a message to this effect has been sent to the state chief secretary in view of the development in Punjab in the last 24 hours.

The commission has also asked the state government to assess the reaction of the political parties about holding elections in Punjab.

'Transistor' Bombs Found on New Delhi Bus

HK210658 Hong Kong AFP in English 0645 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 21 (AFP) — Polce have found two transistor radios believed to contain explosives in a public bus here, similar to "transistor" bombs that killed 84 people last May, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Police said the radios were discovered late yesterday and handed over to bomb disposal units. They could not confirm today if the radios were explosive. The radios were unclaimed.

A series of bombs contained in transistor radios that exploded in New Delhi and several neighbouring states last May, killing 84 people, were officially reported to be the work of Sikh militants.

Police appealed to the residents of New Delhi not to touch any suspicious looking unclaimed articles in buses or other public places.

Police and explosives experts today also were searching a 23-storey Air India office building in Bombay following an anonymous telephone call that a bomb had been placed in the skyscraper, PTI said.

The building was vacated and a massive joint search was begun.

Gandhi on Fighting Terrorism With Strength

BK210859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Both houses of Parliament adjourned today without transacting any work as a mark of respect to Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. Members stood in silence to pay homage to the departed leader. In the Lok Sabha, the prime minister paid a touching tribute to the Akali leader and described him as a man of faith and sincerity dedicated to the national unity and the development of Punjab. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said Sant Longowal stood for communal harmony and brotherhood in Punjab. With his ultimate sacrifice, Sant Longowal has joined the long line of martyrs from the Sikhs in Punjab who have given their lives for the unity and integrity of the country. Mr Gandhi said the Sant showed tremendous courage when he came forward to sign the Punjab settlement. While it was welcomed by all Sikhs, Hindus and other religious groups, there are forces which are working against India and its unity for their own motives.

The prime minister declared that India will not yield to terrorism. We will fight it with all the strength. Mr Gandhi appealed to all sections of the society to unite and strengthen communal harmony, unity, integrity, brotherhood, and peace.

Parliament Debates Bill on Intelligence Agencies

BK201256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, several members criticized the functioning of intelligence agencies and urged the government to revamp them. Members were of the view that there should be a separate cadre of those manning such agencies. The present system of recruitment, they said, is highly unsatisfactory. Members also demanded better pay and allowances as well as arrangements for intensive traning to intelligence personnel. They should be properly motivated and there should be a thorough check on their [word indistinct].

Members were taking part in a discussion on a bill which provides for restriction of certain constitutional rights in their applications to those working for intelligence agencies. Its object is to ensure that they discharge their duties properly and discipline is maintained. The bill was later passed by the house.

Police Block Tibetans From Chinese Embassy

HK201114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 20 Aug 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 20 (AFP) — Police today prevented hundreds of Tibetan refugees from entering the Chinese Embassy here to protest against 20th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Tibet as a Chinese autonomous region.

Area Police Chief B.K. Gupta said his men had thrown a human cordon around the embassy in New Delhi's diplomatic district to prevent 700 demonstrators from entering the premises.

The embassy refused to accept a letter from the refugees to Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang in which they called the autonomous region a "graveyard" of Tibetan culture.

The demonstrators also said at least 1.2 million of their native countrymen had been killed since 1949 by the Chinese in Tibet.

The Tibetan Buddhist god-king, the Dalai Lama, and tens of thousands of his followers fled to India after an abortive uprising against the Chinese in Lhasa in 1959.

An estimated 100,000 Tibetans live in government-aided settlements in India. The Dalai Lama heads the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamsala, north India.

A spokesman for that government said the demonstration was being held to demand the cancellation of 20th anniversary celebrations of the creation of Tibet as an autonomous region and to express solidarity with Tibetans in China who he said are fighting for independence.

The celebrations are to begin in Lhasa on September 1.

The letter refused by the embassy was written by Donyo Jagortsang, a member of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile. It said the Tibetan refugees "consider that celebrations of 20 years of so-called Tibet Autonomous Region is a grave provocation... we will not take it lying down."

The Tibetans say their original homeland consisted of Dhotoe (Kham), Dhome (Amdo) and U-rsang.

"The so-called Tibet Autonomous Region is only a part of this unified Tibet... a large area has now been incorporated into neighbouring Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan," the letter said.

"What is there for the Chinese to celebrate?... Tibet today is (the) graveyard of a rich and unique civilisation," it said.

The letter demanded an internationally supervised vote for self-determination in Tibet.

"Let the outcome of such a plebiscite be the final verdict on the question of Tibet," the letter said, adding, "we assert, with the full backing from the six million fellow countrymen, that we want nothing short of complete independence."

A copy was pasted onto the wall outside the embassy.

In a memorandum read by the president of the Tibetan Youth Congress, which claims a membership of 10,000 Tibetans in India and a dozen other countries, the Tibetans said that at least 1.2 million Tibetans had been killed since 1949 by the Chinese in Tibet.

"The Chinese have also destroyed 6,246 monstries," the memorandum said. "Are the Chinese celebrating to rejoice at the annihilation of Tibetan culture and tradition and the sinicisation of Tibet?"

Moves toward rapproachment between the Dalai Lama and Beijing began in 1978 but suffered a setback last year when China said the Dalai Lama could live anywhere in China except Tibet, providing he gave up the idea of an independent Tibet. The refugees rejected this as unacceptable.

ASEAN Delegation Discusses Cambodian Issue

BK201428 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] A delegation from the six-nation ASEAN is in New Delhi to explain the position of the group on the Kampuchean issue. The delegation comprising representatives from Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore called on the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr G. Parthasarathy, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, and had detailed talks with Mr Venkateswaran, a secretary in the ministry.

At a meeting last month, the ASEAN foreign ministers proposed proximity talks on Kampuchea. Foreign ministers of the Indochina states have also just had a meeting to review the issue. A government spokesman said in New Delhi that all these developments were reviewed at the ASEAN delegation's talks in New Delhi. They are going to a number of other countries also on a similar mission.

Minister Briefs Lok Sabha on Weapons Theft

BK201009 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] The Defense Ministry is reviewing the entire system of transporting arms, ammunition and explosives to ensure their safety in transit. The defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, told the Lok Sabha that the subject was discussed yesterday between the army headquarters and railway authorities. He was replying to questions on a calling attention motion by Mr Rambahadur Singh, CPI, and others on the reported theft of certain spare parts of defense equipment and their recovery in Jahanabad City of Bihar. The minister assured the house that no complete weapon formed part of the consignment, nor could the stolen spare parts have been assembled into a weapon. Members expressed concern that defense equipment could have been stolen, particulatly in an area which has serious law and order problems and is notorious for illicit arms. Some of them suggested that the matter should be handed over to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] to identify the powerful elements behind the episode, as the members put it.

Mr Narasimha Rao asserted that the government is not taking the matter lightly and thorough investigations are underway to find out full facts. He added that it would be wrong to put any blame on the Bihar police. It was they who were the first to inform the government. A criminal case has already been registered.

Earlier, giving details of the incident, the miniter said that 11 boxes were recovered in all. They contained 256 spare parts of firearms. The consignment from which the theft occurred was dispatched from Jabalpore to the northeastern sector. The Bihar

Government thinks that the boxes were stolen either from Gaya railway junction or from Jahanabad station.

Combat Vehicles To Be Built in Madras

BK201441 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The Defense Ministry is setting up two projects for manufacture of combat vehicles in the southern city of Madras. One of the projects will manufacture special tanks while the second one will turn out engines for both tanks as well as infantry combat vehicles. This information was given by the defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, to the lower house of parliament today.

Bhutto Arrives in Karachi With Brother's Body

BK210852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Miss Benazir Bhutto, arrived in Karachi this morning with the body of her brother. Visitors were not allowed within 8 km of the Karachi airport as a security measure.

Benazir returned home after 19 months of exile in Zurich to bury her brother, Shah Nawaz, who died in France last month.

Meanwhile, trucks with machineguns mounted and carrying troops in battle gear made regular tour of opposition strongholds, including areas near the city's university.

In Larkana, thousands of people arrived from other parts of the country to attend the funeral later today and to welcome home Miss Bhutto.

President Takes Steps Toward Lifting Martial Law

BK201359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has said that submartial law administrators will be removed and sent to barracks as a first step toward lifting of martial law from the country.

He told the prime minister, Mr Junejo, that all pending cases with the military courts should be decided after which they will be transferred to civil courts.

According to reports the last stage of the lifting of martial law will involve withdrawal of military governors [of the provinces] who are currently enjoying the rank of generals.

President, Junejo Congratulate Iran's Khamene'i

BK210558 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have extended felicitations to Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on his reelection as the president of Iran.

In his message, the president expressed the confidence that relations between the two countries — which are bound together by indissoluble ties of culture, shared history, values and traditions, and above all Islam — will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come reflecting the aspirations of the two people.

The prime minister in his message said relations between Pakistan and Iran are based on a number of common factors. These have made substantive contribution in promoting and further augmenting their bilateral ties. He expressed the hope that mutually beneficial cooperation would receive an added impetus in the years to come.

Noorani Informs Parliament About Afghan Bombing

BK201056 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] The minister of state for foriegn affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has said the Pakistan Government has the will and capability to defend the lives and property of its people and the territorial integrity of the country. He was making the statement in the National Assembly regarding Afghan bombing of a Pakistani village near Parachinar yesterday.

He said, as the president and the prime minister have repeatedly stated, we have deliberately adopted a policy of restraint of such provocations. This has been done to spare the people living on both sides of the border who are our brothers in faith from the sufferings that would result from the escalation of military tension.

Assures Cooperation in Afghan Talks

BK201215 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The National Assembly continued debate today on the special committee report concerning the future political set up in the country. During question hour, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, reiterated that Pakistan would continued to cooperate in the positive and constructive spirit in the dialogue for solution of the Afghanistan problem. He said while there had not been progress yet on the time frame for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan entertains cautious optimism about the next round of talks beginning on the 27th of this month. He said the four elements to constitute the eventual settlement of the problem remain unchanged.

In reply to another question, the minister of state for foreign affairs said the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the United States had not in any way affected the U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan.

THE MUSLIM on India's Nuclear Capabilities

GF171406 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Aug 85 p 4

[Editorial: "India's Nuclear Designs"]

[Text] While India continues to cavil at Pakistan's efforts to exploit its modest nuclear facilities to augment the production of electrical energy and keep the wheels of the country's industry moving, its own nuclear research reactor in Bombay has acquired the capability of producing weapons grade plutonium in massive quantities.

Named "Dhruva", the reactor is claimed to be a major plutonium producing facility to serve as fuel for its second generation fast-breeder reactors. Yet it maintains that it has no nuclear weapons in its arsenal and that it is Pakistan which is busy fabricating a bomb. The director of the 100-megawatt Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has said that "Dhruva" is the sixth and largest reactor of the centre, and that all its systems are indigenously designed, built and commissioned.

India said the other day that it was closely watching Pakistan's attempts to make nuclear weapons and keeping its options open on counter-measures. Pakistan has not remained under any illusion about the designs of its bigger neighbour which has just claimed that "our capacity and capability should not be underestimated. We have our capacity but we don't have to display it as some others are doing across the border". Again, according to the widely circulated *INDIAN EXPRESS*, the reactor is capable of churning out enough weapons grade plutonium to fuel 30 nuclear bombs. That the acquisition of such horrendous nuclear capacity by India poses a grave threat to the security of the smaller states across its borders is too obvious to be emphasised.

In view of this and the veiled hints that India may resume bomb-making, it has become imperative for these states to strengthen their defences and remain ever alert to the danger lurking at their doorsteps. Nobody can object if they take whatever steps they consider necessary to ensure that their safety is not jeopardised by any over-ambitious power in the region.

JASARAT Editorial

GF181536 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 11 Aug 85 p 3

[Editorial: "What Justification Does India Have?"]

[Text] Kurshid Alam Khan, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, has said: "Pakistan believes that it is far ahead of India in nuclear capability, but these people will come to their senses when they know of Indian capabilities." In his speech to parliament he added: "On the matter of security, India is not helpless vis-a-vis Pakistan. India does not need a nuclear security umbrella to deal with any possible nuclear attack from Pakistan, but no one should misunderstand about the power that India can wield. It is not in India's national interest to say anything about Indian nuclear capabilities. India is quite free in its nuclear program." He said this in answer to questions in the Indian parliament related to steps that India has taken to face Pakistani nuclear threats.

The speech by the Indian minister of state in parliament is an excellent example of the contradictions in the usual accusations against Pakistan to threaten Pakistan and to challenge its independence. For example, Khurshid Alam Khan has said India did not need any nuclear security umbrella against nuclear threats from Pakistan and at the same time he boasted that India had revealed its nuclear capabilities in 1974. He also said: "If Pakistan learns about Indian nuclear capabilities it would come to its senses. That is what I mean by a nuclear umbrella."

This statement clearly shows that India is totally prepared in the nuclear field even though he said that its use was only to counter nuclear threats from Pakistan. In any case, India does not now conceal the fact that it tested an atomic device in 1974. However, India does not say who it was afraid of when it tested the atomic device.

If Pakistan is unaware of Indian nuclear capabilities, it has at least some idea of it. Nevertheless, Pakistan has not lost its senses and is not like India, clamoring for nuclear arms. Of course, India is free in its atomic program. According to Khurshid Alam Khan, Pakistan cannot deviate India from this path. Indian policy has always been that it does not reveal to anybody the path it has selected. It always tries to tell the world that it is following some other path. For example, India has always said that it will never follow the nuclear path; in the meantime it exploded an atomic device in 1974. Regarding its present preparedness and capability in the nuclear field, this statement by the minister of state is sufficient that "Pakistan will come to its senses."

It is now known that India has acquired the capability to process plutonium. Its sixth atomic reactor has begun operating in the Bhabha research center near Bombay. This was constructed by India and is considered one of the biggest reactors in the world. One can realise the absurdity of India saying that all this preparedness was being done to guard itself against threats from Pakistan.

Indian parliament members also refer to the Pakistani atomic program and press the government that India should also make atom bombs because, they say, an atom bomb can deal with all dangers. They do not realise where India would like to drop the bomb and what would be the world reaction to it.

The question is, if India is far ahead of Pakistan in the nuclear field, then what justification does India have in raising a hue and cry over the Pakistani nuclear program?

BANGLADESH

USSR To Improve Relations, Increase Cooperation

HK210201 Hong Kong AFP in English 0127 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 21 (AFP) — The Soviet Union desires to improve its relations with Bangladesh and increase bilateral cooperation in all fields, a visiting Soviet official has said.

Ambassador Anatoliy I. Valkov, head of the South Asia desk of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, conveyed the remarks during his talks with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury here yesterday, a Foreign Office spokesman said. The spokesman said that both sides discussed bilateral relations as well as the issues likely to come up at the coming United Nations General Assembly. "The two sides expressed satisfaction at the existing bilateral relations," he added.

Mr Valkov arrived here Monday at the head of a two-member delegation on a mission to improve bilateral relations between Dhaka and Moscow which had been soured since late 1983 and early 1984 when Bangladesh expelled at least 14 Soviet diplomats on charges of meddling in the country's itnernal politics.

But in recent times, observers here said, there were signs of rapprochement as the two countries last April resumed barter trade and signed a protocol after a lapse of over one year.

The Bangladesh Foreign Office spokesman said that the current talks between the Soviet delegation and the Bangladesh officials also covered the Afghan and Cambodia questions and both sides apprised each other of their respective positions on the two issues.

Mr Valkov's delegation is expected to stay in Bangladesh for five days and the talks would continue today, the Foreign Office spokesman said.

SRI LANKA

Continuing Reportage on Talks With Tamils

Talks To Resume 23 Aug

HK210942 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 21 (AFP) — Large numbers of Tamil militants from the northern Jaffna Peninsula are grouping in the northeast and Sri Lankan troops are bracing for fresh separatist attacks, security sources said here today. Well-armed groups have been moving into the Trincomalee District in particular and are trying to secure the area, well-informed security sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Meanwhile diplomatic sources here said that representatives of the government and six Tamil groups would likely resume late tomorrow or on Friday their peace talks in Bhutan, interrupted by a Tamil walkout Friday in protest at alleged killings by Sri Lankan forces. "It is more likely that the representatives of both sides will get back to the negotiating table on Friday," one diplomatic source said.

Trincomalee, which has a mixed population of Sinhalese, Tamils and Moslems, has seen at least 70 deaths in communal violence in the past week by official count.

Extra troops have been deployed in the area in the last few days against possible attacks, security sources said, refusing to disclose the details of the deployment or the troop strength.

No major incidents involving Tamil militants have been reported from the north and east in the past 24 hours, security sources said.

Tamil Leaders To Set Strategy

HK210432 Hong Kong AFP in English 0018 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Escerpt] Madras, India, Aug 20 (AFP) — Leaders of Tamil guerrilla groups are to meet soon to evolve a common strategy following the breakdown of peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government, a Tamil militants' spokesman said here today.

A spokesman for the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), comprising four major militant groups, said the meeting would take place in a day or two. "If we have to take up arms again we are prepared for it. We have the necessary organisation, men and material for self defence," he said.

Meanwhile, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported that Tamil militant leaders were preparing to meet Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi. PTI said they would press for Indian Government recognition of the ENLF. The groups are to explain their basic demands and assure Mr. Gandhi that they would not obstruct India's initiative, PTI said.

Tamil delegates to the Indian-sponsored peace talks in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan returned here today and categorically stated that the talks had been aborted. The ENLF spokesman said that the Sri Lankan Armed Forces had "unilaterally revoked the June 18 ceasefire by inflicting heavy casualties on innocent Tamils." The ceasefire was called to facilitate the talks.

Government To Raise National Auxiliary Force

BK201245 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 8 Aug 85 p 1

[By Chitra Weerasinghe]

[Excerpt] Government has decided to raise a 10,000 man national auxiliary force (NAF) to assist the Armed Forces in the defense requirements of the north and east, cabinet spokesman Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis announced after yesterday's weekly meeting of ministers.

He said President Jayewardene had told the cabinet that legislation to form this force is now under preparation and will be presented to cabinet shortly. "In the meantime, the force has already been formed under Emergency Regulations published last month," the president had said.

The cabinet yesterday authorised capital expenditure of Rs. [rupees] 2.5 million and recurrent expenditure of Rs. 16 million for the NAF. The capital expenditure will cover the cost of

buildings, vehicles, office equipment, furniture and weapons, while the recurrent expenditure will meet pay and allowances, fuel, rations, travelling expenses etc.

Mr de Alwis reported that the president had told his ministers that the government was pressing on with its program to train cadres to meet any eventuality. "It would be considered reckless not to have done so, particularly if the Tamil leaders refuse to agree to a political solution," he said.

The president had stressed the importance of the next round of peace talks at Thimpu, as a prelude to which India's Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari will arrive here today. "The government has acted with great restraint under enormous provocation from the terrorists, because it is determined to ensure that those who wish to sabotage the talks will not succeed," the minister said.

The president had told the ministers that the whole world was witness to the fact that the government had demonstrated in practice its good faith and its willingness to find a political solution at the conference table.

"The president said the government had also demonstrated its ability to stand by commitment to a cessation of hostilities during and after the talks, with a view to settling the problem peacefully," the minister said.

Dr. de Alwis quoted the president as saying that it had become evident to the world that the terrorists continued to kill, rob and intimidate not only their own people, but the Sinhalese who had lived in certain parts of the country for generations. The despicable killing of Buddhist monks was part of the terrorist crime.

The minister said the president was hopeful that the next round of talks in Thimpu would bring the two sides "closer to an agreement than before."

Colombo on Denial of Claimed 250 Tamil Deaths

BK201158 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] A LANKAPUWATH [news agency] report states that (Kantharatna Seypalan), the Tamil head of the citizen's committee in Trincomalee, has (?nailed) the Sri Lanka Tamil terrorist canard that 250 Tamils were massacred by security forces in the east coast village of (Arankattai) off Sampaltivu near (Chorjermicliff).

A REUTER correspondent at present in Sri Lanka said the report of the alleged massacre was baseless. He said the terrorist's claim that 250 Tamils were killed in this village north of Trincomalee has been investigated and found baseless.

Meanwhile, the government has strongly denied the terrorists' claim, which were in absolute fabrication, originating from the Eelam National Liberation Front headquarters in Madras last Saturday. The government has stated that the falsehood was aimed at wrecking the ongoing Indian initiated peace talks in Thimpu.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Meets With Khamene'i

LD201541 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday told the foreign minister of Yugoslavia, Raif Dizdarevic, that the next summit of the Non-Aligned Movement should condemn Iraq's war crimes. The president said that the stance of the movement with regard to the imposed Iraqi war has been weak.

Dizdarevic who arrived in Tehran Monday met Khamene'i in the presidential office.

The Yugoslav foreign minister has emphasized common policies of the two countries, particularly their membership in the Non-Aligned Movement. Yugoslavia is a founding member of the movement.

Dizdarevic told President Khamene'i that the Yugoslav leadership and parliament believed the outlooks for promoting relations between the two countries were excellent.

He said Yugoslav leaders valued the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Non-Aligned Movement and believed that the destiny of Yugoslavia and Iran depended on the future of such movements.

In response Khamene'i expressed hope that the next summit of the Non-Aligned Movement would condemn the Iraqi war crimes.

Iraq has repeatedly resorted to the use of chemical weapons, and attacks on civilian targets including cities, shipping lanes and civil aviation.

Khamene'i said the Non-Aligned Movement has had a weak stand in condemning Iraqi violations, "one weaker than the United Nations" he said.

Nevertheless, the president said, the Islamic Republic was optimistic about the future of the movement although he said the movement failed to have an immediate and active presence in international relations.

Also present in the meeting were Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the new Yugoslav Ambassador to Tehran Mirco Zardic.

Discusses Trade Expansion

LD201822 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — The Iranian minister of economics, Hoseyn Namazi, Tuesday told the foreign minister of Yugoslavia, Raif Dizdarevic, that an economic protocol between Iran and Yugoslavia must materialize before bilateral trade could expand any further.

Every year the Islamic Republic and Yugoslavia sign a new protocol envisioning trade between the two countries. The existing agreement was signed last February for dollars 700 million in bilateral trade which includes the sale to Yugoslavia of 1.5 million barrels of Iranian oil.

Namazi said that he and Dizdarevic had discussed bilateral trade, and agreed on joint efforts for removing obstacles in the way of the protocol. He termed the current trade relations between the two countries as being "good".

Iran-Yugoslavia joint trade commission meets every year.

Musavi: No Obstacles to Trade

LD201832 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — The prime minister of the Islamic Republic, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Tuesday said that there were no obstacles in the way of an expanding trade between Iran and Yugoslavia.

In a meeting with the visiting foreign minister, Raif Dizdarevic here, the prime minister said that both countries played an important role in the Non-Aligned Movement.

In response, Dizdarevic expounded on the foreign policy role of Yugoslavia in international relations. He said Iran's largest achievement since the 1979 Islamic revolution was the gaining of an independent policy.

Others present in the meeting were Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Talks Called 'Positive'

GF210543 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Mr Dizdarevic, SFRY minister of foreign affairs, who was in our country as the head of a political delegation, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by Mr Velayati, the foreign minister of our country, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the ambassadors of both countries. Before his departure, Mr Dizdarevic, spoke to our correspondent; he called the discussions here positive and invited Mr Velayati to visit Yugoslavia. Mr Velayati accepted the invitation.

It is recalled that the SFRY foreign minister discussed matters of mutual interest with the president of the Islamic republic of Iran, as well as the prime minister, the minister of foreign affairs, and the minister of economic and finance of our country during his 2-day visit. In the meeting with the minister of finance and economy, the implementation of the letter of accord signed between the two countries last year was stressed and ideas were exchanged concerning the removal of any obstacles that hinder its implementation.

Delegation Departs for Syria
LD210738 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA — The Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Raif Dizdarevic, and his delegation left Tehran for Damascus, Syria, this morning at the conclusion of a two-day official visit.

The delegation visited Iran at the invitation of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and held talks with Iranian officials mainly on bilateral issues and the stance of the two countries in the Non-Aligned Movement.

During its stay here, the Yugoslav delegation conferred with President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, Velayati, and Economics and Finance Minister Hoseyn Namazi.

The delegation was seen off at Tehran's International Mehrabad Airport by Velayati and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Lebanese Hezbollah Group Continues Visit

Talks With Majlis Speaker
LD201609 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — A group of militant Muslim religionists (Hezbollah Party of God) of Lebanon met the speaker of Iran's Majlis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tuesday.

The two sides discussed the current situation in Lebanon as well as the struggles of the Hezbollah against the Zionists in the region.

The leaders of Hezbollah, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham, arrived in Tehran Sunday.

Received by Musavi
LD201843 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, said Tuesday that the two peoples of Iran and Lebanon were close to each other and shared the same destiny.

Speaking to members of the Lebanese Hezbollah delegation, Musavi said that Iranians followed current developments in Lebanon with great interest.

The media here commonly reflect on Lebanon and publish regular analyses on the situation in Lebanon.

Musavi said the United States feared the return of Islamic values in Lebanon which would guarantee the victory of the Lebanese resistance.

The Lebanese delegation, including Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Abu Hisham arrived in Tehran Sunday for official talks. Al-Tufayli told the prime minister that the Lebanese resistance would continue the struggle against the Zionists until the liberation of Palestine.

The visiting delegates also expounded on the current situation in their country and the Zionists' retreat in the face of stiff Muslim resistance in southern Lebanon.

Meet Reconstruction Minister
LD210710 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 21, IRNA — The visiting Lebanese Hezbollah (the Party of God) delegation which is headed by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli met here with the minister of reconstruction jihad, Bijan Zanganeh, Tuesday.

Zanganeh outlined jihad activities in the country both in rural development and reconstruction of the war-stricken areas destroyed during the Iraqi-imposed war.

The Lebanese delegation also referred to the devastation in Lebanon caused by the regime occupying Jerusalem. It called on the Iranian minister to make available experiences obtained by his ministry to the Lebanese revolutionary youths.

Besharati Meets New Zealand Prime Minister
LD201831 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — Iran's deputy foreign minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who is currently in New Zealand leading a delegation, met with New Zealand's Prime Minister David Lange, Monday.

Besharati delivered a written invitation by Iran's Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to Lange for an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He praised New Zealand's realistic policies in condemnation of the apartheid system in South Africa as well as its denial of permit to U.S. nuclear armed ships to berth at New Zealand's ports.

Said Besharati at the meeting, "to counter the imperialists would involve hardships, but obviously if the people undertake such a struggle, there will never be any defeats."

Iran's deputy foreign minister also expressed hope that the two countries' relations would not only expand in the fields of economics and politics but also develop at the international level.

In response, Lange expressed optimism over the future of bilateral economic and political relations, terming the establishment of Iran's embassy in New Zealand, cheerful news.

PDRY Foreign Minister Receives Ambassador
GF210549 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Text] The Iranian ambassador in Aden met last night with PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. They discussed issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations, the Arab summit conference, the Nonaligned Movement, and U.S. imperialist conspiracies in the region.

During the meeting, the Iranian ambassador in Aden praised the PDRY's stand on the Arab summit conference and its efforts toward further coordination with progressive Arab countries.

Both sides affirmed the need to promote relations between the PDRY and Iranian peoples and to bolster the coordinated stands of the two countries.

The PDRY foreign minister conveyed his congratulations on the reelection of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Afghans Demonstrate Over Right of Pilgrimage

GF210558 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Aug 85

[Excerpt] A large number of Afghan Muslims who reside in Iran and to whom the Saudi Government refused to give visas to perform pilgrimage to the Inviolable House of God staged a sit-in in a sports hall in Tehran yesterday. They shouted slogans demanding visas to perform pilgrimage.

Arab Front Official Views Opposition in Ahvaz

GF161051 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Aug 85 p 5

[Article from the Seyassah bureau in Baghdad]

[Text] The recent confrontations between the authorities and residents of Ahvaz in Iran province is a clear proof of the success of the Arab Front for the Liberation of Ahvaz, its secretary-general, Hussain Madi Hassan, said.

In an interview held at Ahvaz, part of Iran with a majority Arab population, Hassan told Seyassah that his front was established in 1979 to unify the efforts of 4.5 million Ahvazis who face oppression at the hands of the Iranian regime.

He said the front's programme included reviving Arab culture which had been suppressed since the days of the Shah. The front had made progress in forming armed groups in many cities and towns, but the foreign media had not publicised its operations inside Iran.

During the Shah regime, many Arab organisations were formed to fight it, and when Khomeyni also rejected Arab demands, other groups joined the front.

Recently, the front has extended its operations inside the Iranian Army and the Revolutionary Guards in order to recruit Arabs to their cause.

Hassan denied that Arabs from Ahvaz fought against the Iraqi Army, adding that it was Iranians deported from Iraq who fought the Iraqi Army. He said that Khomeyni ordered these Iranians to be distributed among different Ahvaz cities and they fought the Iraqi Army.

Talking about oppression in Ahvaz, Hassan said Arab farmers worked hard but lived in poverty, while Iranians coming from other areas were given the best agricultural land and lived well.

Only some Arab students were allowed to go to Iranian universities, mostly those loyal to the regime.

During the Shah's rule, Arab names in the province were changed to Persian ones, and this practice had been intensified under Khomeyni.

Hassan said that Arab workers in Ahvaz Province faced very difficult situations because they were considered unproductive workers and thousands were jobless.

Ahvaz Arabs who opposed the regime were being hanged even without a trial, according to information received by the front, Hassan claimed.

The front is currently forming militia and guerrilla groups as a step towards forming a people's army, and is also planning now to strike at Iran's economy.

Hassan said the front lacked funds [and] had asked for help from several Arab countries. But the official Arab attitude did not allow for direct aid, and the front was currently getting help only from Iraq.

He stressed that the present Iranian regime rejected all the demands of Arab in Iran, and did not even allow the opening of schools to teach in Arabic, insisting that Persian should be used.

Commentary Hails Success of Kordestan Elections

LD201352 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 20 Aug 85

["Today's Political Review"]

[Excerpts] Despite hostile foreign propaganda and extensive plans to keep the Muslim people of Iran from participating in the presidential elections, the elections for the fourth presidential term were completed with the all-around participation of the people, in complete peace and without incident.

This is noteworthy since it shows the stability of the Islamic Republic system and the level of popular support. The extent of the people's participation in the elections, especially our friends in Kordestan and Western Azarbayjan testifies to this point.

Although counterrevolution leaders had threatened the Muslim Kurdish people, banning them from taking part in the elections, and later placed at their disposal everything needed for this purpose, the people of Kordestan, nevertheless, extensively participated in the election, showing that where enemy threats and pressure prevails, religious and national fervor for supporting Islam and the Islamic homeland is 10 times stronger.

Judging by the statistics, one could say that Kordestan enjoys considerable stability coupled with the people's all-around participation. This has even greater meaning when comparing the situation in these two provinces, especially Kordestan, now, with that in the early years of the victory of the Islamic revolution, showing the absolute sovereignty of the Islamic Republic system

over this province and the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

If we compare the situation in Kordestan today with the past few years, we would clearly see the more extensive presence of the Muslim Kurdish people on the scene. Only a few weeks after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Kordestan and Western Azarbayjan were faced with chaos and crisis. Groups, whose treachery and subservience are known to all, together with SAVAK agents and courtiers of the perditioned shah, turned the region into a base for dealing blows to the Islamic Republic. Documents discovered during the course of the imposed war showed that the regional situation was the result of plans by foreign powers and their agents; that the plan for dismembering Kordestan was laid as the first step toward destroying the Islamic system in Iran. Thanks to the alertness of the authorities and the Muslim people of Iran, however, especially the committed people of Kordestan, this calculated plot was foiled.

Counterrevolutionary groups and minigroups in the region had hidden their true nature behind the guise of protecting the Kurdish people. However, when government and reconstruction jihad officials were martyred while serving the public and performing development duties, and when Saddam's regime, as a protector and ally of the counterrevolution, subjected various towns in Kordestan and Western Azarbayjan to air raids and chemical bomb attacks, the Muslim Kurdish people understood better the true nature of the conspirators lying in wait.

Of course, despite the problems and obstacles in its path, the government, with admirable perseverance, did not deprive the people of its services.

Considering these development and the restoration of peace in the region, so that all the roads in the province were declared open around-the-clock, the Muslim Kurdish people have more fully grasped the blessings of the Islamic system of Iran and have shown more enthusiasm and solidarity with the holy goals pursued by the government and the Muslim nation of Iran.

Cabinet Discusses Afghanistan, Elections

LD181848 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran's prime minister, Hoseyn Musavi condemned here Sunday any decisions made concerning the destiny of Afghan Muslims without their participation.

Premier Musavi who was speaking at Sunday's cabinet ministers meet added that Afghan people after suffering one million martyrs and millions of refugees cannot tolerate the compromise between the superpowers throughout the world, especially when it concerns their fate.

It is natural for Afghan Muslim people to maintain their struggle until establishment of an Islamic government originating from the masses of people, the prime minister said.

At the cabinet meeting the interior minister, Hoj. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presented a report, reflecting the enthusiasm showed by the people during the presidential elections. He said also that the elections were held free of incidents.

Speaking on overseas participation in the presidential elections Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reported that the U.S. authorities interrupted the voting by Iranians in some American cities.

Velayati added that such provocation only reflects the superpowers fear of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Security Forces Arrest 'Sabotage Groups'

GF162005 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, 16 Aug (IRNA) — A few days ago the security forces arrested 20 groups of hypocrites — enemies of the revolution and agents of the bloody regime in Baghdad — with weapons and sabotage equipment in their posssession. (?The groups) intended to use the equipment before the fourth presidential election was held and planned to instill fear and panic among the people who have repeatedly demonstrated their steadfastness before the schemes of the enemies of the revolution.

This was reported by Security Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri during a television interview broadcast yesterday.

He noted that the Baghdad regime recently exerted efforts to prepare sabotage groups from the hypocrites in order to dispatch them to Islamic Iran intent on killing the innocent children of Hezbollah by planting bombs in public places and carrying out assassinations.

The Islamic security forces succeeded in eliminating 42 saboteurs from these sabotage group. Some fell into the hands of the children of Islam while others were killed. Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri noted that Saddam's agent regime dispatched these groups over the past 2 months after training them on [words indistinct] killing.

In a statement carried on Radio Baghdad the hypocrite group claimed that the operations of these groups would be large, according to their claims, and that they were scheduled to be carried out in six cities — Rasht, Qasvin, Karch, Zanjan Esfahan, Ahvaz, and Tehran.

The Almighty scuttled the plots of these groups and disappointed them. The security minister stated that 120 kg of explosives were seized.

Industrial Production Increases 40 Percent

LD210206 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — General Director of Iran's National Industries Organization Hoseyn Mahru described the organization's activities in a press interview Tuesday.

He announced that the amount of production during the 1363 Iranian year (started March 21, 1984) indicated 40 percent

increase compared to 1356 (started March 21, 1977), which was the peak of period of production during ex-regime.

Reportage on Kurdish Operations Against Iraq

Iraqi Soldier Defects to Kurds

LD201105 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — An Iraqi soldier belonging to the 2nd Battalion of the 438th Brigade of the Iraqi Army's 23rd Division on Monday joined the ranks of Iraqi Kurdish Muslim freedom-fighters after shooting his commander, reports from northern Iraq said.

Meanwhile, another report from Sulaymaniyah Province indicates that Iraqi Kurdish Muslim Peshmerga Monday attacked a depot for road construction equipments in Halabjah and demolished several engineering vehicles, four power generators, one of the depot's building and more than 10 engineering machinery.

Fighter Downed

GF201811 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] In their bitter struggle against the Ba'thist Zionist regime imposed on Iraq, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries downed a fighter of the Saddamist regime in northern Iraq on 12 August.

Eyewitnesses said that the fighter was downed while on a reconnaissance mission to discover the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries' position so as to prevent them from using (Duhwak) road.

According to reports from Iraqi territories, the Muslim revolutionaries, while controlling the road between Mosul and Zakhu, managed to destroy a commando jeep and a vehicle of the Iraqi Army, and killed a number of Saddamists.

Attacks on Buildings, Vehicle

GF201852 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Excerpt] Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries attacked the residence of Mamik Surchi, governor of Dahuk, in northern Iraq, causing a great deal of damage to the building. In this operation, the Kurdish revolutionaries hurled two hand grenades at the residence but the governor escaped.

On 11 August, Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries attacked the municipality directorate of Atrush in northern Iraq, inflicting losses on the building and its agent occupants. In Mosul, they hurled a hand grenade at a vehicle belonging to the Saddam regime, destroying the vehicle and capturing one of the agents of the Saddam regime called Yusuf Salih Gali.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraq Shells Abadan, Khorramshahr

GF201354 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] In continuation of their criminal acts, the mercenaries of the warmongering Iraqi regime sporadically shelled various parts of the resisting city of Abadan with various kinds of artillery during the past 24 hours and four houses were damaged. According to the Central News Unit, the city of Khorramshahr was also the target of artillery fire and mortar launchers of the Zionist mercenaries during the past 24 hours.

Communique No 2,203

LD201907 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — Artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants hit Iraqi troops as they were trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in northern frontlines, killing or wounding a large number of them over the past 24 hours, the Joint Staff Command in its communique number 2203 reported here Tuesday.

The communique added that Iranian artillery fire in these fronts also wrecked a 106 mm-gun, a Katyusha rocket launcher and 13 vehicles of the Iraqi forces.

Iraqi vehicle movements were checked throughout the operational regions in the battlefronts, when Iranian forces opened heavy fire on them, blocking their supply routes and silencing their fire, the communique said.

In central and southern fronts, exchange of mortar fire continued between the Iranian soldiers and the Iraqi forces with the latter suffering heavy casualties and a number of their bunkers and munitons depots were destroyed too, according to the communique.

It added that Iran's gendarmerie forces opened fire on Iraqi troops' positions across the Arvand River, disrupting the enemy's engineering operations, killing or wounding a number of them. A number of bunkers and ammunition depots of the Iraqi forces were also destroyed, the communique added.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were the targets of Iraq's sporadic artillery fire during the past 24 hours which damaged four residential houses in Abadan, the communique concluded.

Iraqi POW's on 'Low Morale'

LD161324 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug 16, IRNA — Iran's continuous Qods operations have spread deep panic among Iraqi troops, an Iraqi POW who was taken prisoner by the Iranian Muslim combatants in Aushura-2 operation told IRNA here Thursday.

Sergeant Zeghayyer Mahmeh Doweich added that victories of the Iranian Muslim fighters in the Qods chain operations have been the result of the Iraqi forces' low morale.

He said he was commanding an Iraqi company from the Second Battalion in 'Ayn al-Qadisiyah hills where they surrendered themselves to the Iranian forces at the beginning of the Iranian attack. He said that after 14 years military service in the Iraqi Army, he has understood that Iraqi forces are like scarecrows who are unable to do anything.

"Saddam is trying to find a political solution to bring an end to the war," the Iraqi POW added.

Another Iraqi POW, Yasi Hussein Ali from the First Battalion of Iraq's 114th Brigade said since the Qods chain operations started in northern, central and southern fronts two months ago, the morale of the Iraqi forces has been badly shaken.

The added that even Iraq's most skilled commandos refuse to come to these fronts.

Sergeant Mahmoud Awdeh said that he was on watch near the Ainolqadessieh hills when the Iranians launched their attack and took him prisoner. He got so embarassed that he could not report the assault to the command headquarters there he added.

LA REPUBBLICA Interviews Iranian Oppositionists

PM201217 [Editorial Report] Rome *LA REPUBBLICA* in Italian 18-19 August 1985 carries on page 9 a Magdi Allam feature on Iran, consisting of a brief introduction following by exclusive statements from three exiled Iranian oppositionists — National Resistance Council Chairman Mas'ud Rajavi, former president Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, and National Movement of Iranian Resistance Deputy Chairman Mir Fendereski Ahmad — in reply to the same three questions put by *LA REPUBBLICA*:

1. "What is your assessment of Khamene'i's reelection as president and of the situation within the regime?"
2. "Do you believe it is possible to establish a united front of opposition forces?"
3. "How do you assess the current war situation; how and when could it end?"

The answers are as follows:

Rajavi: 1. "Khamene'i's inevitable reelection proves that the regime has reached such a degree of instability that its scope for maneuvering has become extremely limited. The elections highlight two politically significant results: the fact that the Khomeyni regime has no alternatives within itself; and it is therefore bound to be totally destroyed. Our resistance will overthrow Khomeyni, after which we will appoint a provisional government headed by myself, which will remain in office for 6 months to hold a general election and to appoint a constituent assembly. [as published] The legitimacy of our representation derives from the resistance that we are conducting against the regime within Iran, but ultimately it is the people who will decide. We are willing to cooperate with all free and independent forces, irrespective of their ideology — that is, whether they are Islamic, liberal, or Communist — so long as they are connected neither to Khomeyni nor to the shah."

2. "If I were to reply formally I would say: 'Yes,' nobody needs unity more than we do, and nobody has paid a higher price for it than we have. But allow me to make the following observation: We are 6,000 km from Iran; we cannot consider as oppositionists all those who sit in their apartments overlooking the Seine or the Thames awaiting news of Khomeyni's overthrow to reap the benefits. The oppositionists are those who are struggling within Iran and who enjoy the population's respect and support. To embrace the followers of the shah's dictatorship, starting with the 37-day prime minister [BAKHTIAR — *LA REPUBBLICA* editor's note] would be the best gift I could make to Khomeyni.

"Those people have no chance of being accepted by the people, so why should we sully our own reputation? The Tudeh Communists collaborated with Khomeyni in the repression directed against us. There is no point uniting with them because they are hated by the people. The unity of the free forces in favor of peace is realized in the National Resistance Council [NRC], and the splits that have occurred within it are due to our determination to be inflexible on the principle of Khomeyni's overthrow. Bani-Sadr and the Kurdish Democratic Party were expelled from the NRC after initiating a dialogue with the regime. In any case Bani-Sadr does not represent any social force or political organization, while our Kurdish friends are well aware that the regime will be overthrown in Tehran and not in Kordestan and that it will never grant them autonomy. The framework of the resistance has not altered since those splits: Now, as before, it is up to the mojahedin to overthrow Khomeyni."

3. "We have raised the banner of a just peace and signed a blueprint for peace with Iraq because it was our duty to put an end to the massacre of our people and to the draining of our resources. This war was desired by Khomeyni to export his revolution, yet in September 1980 we fought the Iraqi aggressor even though the Pasdaran were knifing us in the back. But Khomeyni's stubbornness in continuing the war — despite the fact that Iraq withdrew within its own borders back in June 1982 — confirms that he needs the external war to conceal the repression exercised in the internal war.

"The present containment of military operations is due to the major failure of operation "Badr," launched in March. Since then the Iranian forces have not succeeded in launching any large-scale offensives, owing to Khomeyni's inability to mobilize as many people as he used to and to shortcomings in logistics and weaponry. But the most important fact is that the future of Khomeyni and of the war will be determined not on the front but in Tehran. According to reliable sources, 65 percent of Khomeyni's forces are inside the city, only 27 percent on the front, and 8 percent in Kordestan."

Bani-Sadr: 1. "Khamene'i was reelected because there is a very strong likelihood that Khomeyni will die within the next 4 years since he is nearly 90, which is why the old imam refuses to allow another person from outside the leadership group to become head of state. He therefore halted the power struggle between Khamene'i and Rafsanjani. In this connection I will reveal to you some

information that I have just received from inside Iran. An accord has been reached within the regime whereby Rafsanjani will be put in charge of foreign policy and Khamene'i will be put in charge of the economy and some aspects of domestic policy, while Foreign Minister Velayati will probably become prime minister.

"In fact both Rafsanjani and Khamene'i have the same medieval mentality and believe in religious totalitarianism. The difference is that Rafsanjani is much smarter, has a greater capacity for work, and has a feeling for maneuvers and manipulation that enables him to change color and language very quickly: In other words, he is what is called a political animal. Furthermore, Rafsanjani is much closer to Khomeyni and, thanks to his post as Majlis speaker, he is freer to form alliances with influential groups and able to cause crises.

"Khamene'i, on the other hand, is of lower than average intelligence and lacks charisma, and his position obliges him to give priority to a stable and correct administration of the state. I believe, however, that the alternative to Khomeyni will come neither from Rafsanjani, nor from Rajavi, nor from Bakhtiar: It is to be sought outside the present regime, though within Iran.

"We are the alternative, the minority who embody the spirit of the revolution, which has been betrayed by the mullahs whose ideas are medieval. We are working to ensure that the revolution is completed and our minority can become the majority. To achieve this objective, however, we must not repeat the mistake made by Khomeyni, who gave priority to power. We must struggle for freedom, since if power divides, freedom unites."

2. "We are willing to unite with all forces that share our four priorities: democracy, independence, progress, and an Islam compatible with the other priorities. We have left behind the phase of unity achieved at the cost of principles. I lead an organization born spontaneously out of the revolution and desired by the people, not an organization created and imposed from the top. It is composed of coordination committees which operate secretly and act as information channels which I use as the basis for my political decisions. Obviously, the methods we use must be consistent with our principles: We are not opposed to armed struggle so long as it takes place with the resources available within Iran. My experiences with Khomeyni and Rajavi confirmed to me that it is an error to compromise on principles just for the sake of achieving unity.

"Rajavi is even more of a traitor and a liar than Bakhtiar. Rajavi was a nonentity, the leader of a small group, and even now the Mojahedin are entirely insignificant. They are not an alternative to the regime but of the same substance — a totalitarian organization that did not allow a semblance of democracy even within the NRC. It is Rajavi — not I — who believes in the possibility that the Khomeyni regime could evolve and who is in contact with it. I accuse him of having come to an agreement with Rafsanjani. He is prepared to abandon the armed struggle as long as he can have a share of power."

3. "What is happening at present on the front is a game, not a war. The fact is that neither side is able to attack. They do what they can, but this is very dangerous because it means that the zone will become an area of permanent and chronic crisis, war, and violence directly involving Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. This war will end only if the Iranian people so desire."

Fendereski Ahmad: 1. "On the basis of the rules established by any democratic society we cannot say that Khamene'i was reelected: He was appointed head of state for a new 4-year term, which is entirely normal in a society in which there is no place for human rights. A power struggle is under way within the regime; actually it started 5 years ago, and one aspect of it is all the attacks that have occurred. However, until Khomeyni dies this struggle will remain under the surface and will not be apparent to the public at large.

"Nevertheless, it is clearly a clash between two tendencies — one left-wing, headed by Khamene'i and linked with the USSR and the Communist countries where Khamene'i lived for a long time; and the other right-wing, headed by Rafsanjani and linked with the West. In this regard, it is important to stress that the West actually regards Rafsanjani as someone with whom it is possible to deal. Iran's present internal situation has greatly deteriorated, to the extent that we believe a popular rising is possible. I believe, however, that before making a move it is necessary to make a proper assessment of all the consequences. We are opposed to bloodbaths, but there is no doubt that the present situation is paving the way for a change."

2. "We are constitutionalists. We do not want the restoration of the shah — whose regime was authoritarian and repressive — but a constitutional monarchy within which the king reigns but does not govern, the actual power power being in the prime minister's hands. We are convinced that the monarchical regime is best for our country, within its geopolitical context. Our movement categorically rules out the possibility of an alternative solution to Khomeyni within the regime itself.

"As far as our relations with other opposition forces are concerned, we proceed from the principle that religion and politics must remain separate — that is, to render unto God that which is God's and render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. We regard religion as a personal faith, which cannot affect politics. When the Iranian people en masse supported the general strike call by our movement on 17 May they confirmed that they understand and support our message — that of an alternative based on reason. We neither are not want to be either revolutionary or counterrevolutionary; we are in favor of radical reforms implemented wisely. Our appeal for unity is addressed to all reasonable people tired both of religious fanaticism and of the demagoguery of the left. We believe that the Iranian people are now thirsty above all for political, social, and legal security, so that they can then embark on the task of rebuilding the country."

3. "The war was started by Iraq but was desired by Khomeyni and will not end as long as Khomeyni is still alive, just as it was impossible to end World War II as long as Hitler was alive. We have now reached a phase in the war where Iraq is defending itself but Iran is no longer able to attack because it lacks the resources. This is a very dangerous and worrying situation because it could continue for years. It is difficult to make forecasts about the time and manner of an eventual end to the war, since we find ourselves haveing to deal with a madman who

rejects all the rules established by the international community and who is blinded by the idea of exporting his revolution.

"Neither must we harbor any illusions following the Iraqi attack on the oil terminal on Khark Island. On the contrary, we must worry about the consequences, because Khomeyni is capable of seeking revenge by attacking Kuwait or bombing Saudi Arabia's oil wells."

Nejat-e Iran: Security Measures for Khamene'i Noted

GF191833 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who has so far received over 12 million votes from his imam in order to push his popularity on the people, during the past week has been moving around in an armored vehicle belonging to the Gendarmerie.

The president of the mullahs no longer uses his bullet-proof Mercedes when he goes to his office or to former Tehran University to hold Friday prayers. The Mercedes follows the armored vehicle without a passenger.

Khamene'i lives in the palace which used to belong to the king's mother. Eyewitnesses report that all doors and windows have been covered with steel sheets, and apparently even Khamene'i's family members must undergo a body search before entering his palace.

Tehran circles say that this is done on the specific orders of Khamene'i because the president of the mullahs has been living in fear of assassination by his opposition after arranging the escape of his sister to Iraq. She recently joined her husband Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani.

Nejat-e Iran: 'Political Prisoners' Mass Grave Found

GF201857 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 85

[Text] The bodies of 93 political prisoners whom the Khomeyni regime had announced as missing have been discovered. According to the roving Nejat-e Iran reporter in Mazandaran Province, last week following a landslide in the small town of Mian-Poshteh near Rudsar, an irrigation channel coming from a spring to farmlands was blocked and this uncovered another of the mullahs' terrifying crimes.

According to this report, about 2 years ago a group of prisoners, mostly girls in their late teens from the province of Baluchestan va Sistan, dissappeared in our country's northern towns. Their families were unable to gather any information on the fate of these political prisoners.

Last week the farmers of Mian-Poshteh were busy digging to remove the earth that the landslide had brought down. Suddenly they came across several bodies. Our reporter, quoting these farmers, adds: Altogether 93 bodies were recovered. Most of them had their hands and feet tied with ropes. Several hours later it became clear that the elements of the regime had chosen this place as a burial ground for murdered political prisoners.

According to this report several trucks belonging to Revolutionary Guards from Rudsar placed the bodies in special gunny sacks and removed them to an undisclosed spot.

We remind you that in Kazerun and in the water wells around this town another mass grave was discovered with bodies of dozens of political prisoners.

Free Voice of Iran on Bomb Explosion in Zanjan

GF191810 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] There were at least three bomb explosions in our country last week. The Islamic Republic regime earlier reported the discovery and diffusion of a 45 kg bomb. A report from Zanjan noted a grenade blast at a ballot center. The regime of mullahs has not reported two other bomb explosions in Tehran and referred to the explosion of a bomb in Baba'ian Avenue in Tehran only when the dead reached 3 and the number of wounded approached 40 people. This bomb was planted in a vehicle and apparently in buildings within a few kilometers of the blast shook from the explosion. The bomb blast also damaged some buildings and homes in a 150 meter radius.

The official news agency of the mullahs' regime, unable to hide the news of the explosion, in a dispatch noted that the popular support for presidential elections has caused a reaction among the opposition and so the subsequent bombing. The mullahs' regime, making such an accusation, not only has blamed the opposition to the regime of murder and terrorist actions, but also attempted to divert the attention of the people of our country from all the cheating and diversionary action which took place during the so-called presidential elections. There were close to 500,000 votes invalidated during this election show. The regime has not yet reported the death of three people in the explosion in Baba'ian Avenue yesterday.

Radio Iran: 25 Airline Employees Arrested

GF171636 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] According to a report filed a few hours ago by one of our correspondents in Tehran, as a result of the appointment of mini-mullah Sane'i — nephew of Ayatollah Sane'i, a member of the Council of Guardians — as commercial manager of Iran National Airlines, the arrest of company employees under various pretexts has intensified.

Three days ago, 25 employees were arrested and imprisoned on the orders of Sane'i. Apparently each revolution organization receives a weekly allowance of 100 airline tickets for use by their cronies or family or to sell on the black market. It seems that the 25 individuals refused to cooperate with the revolution organizations and were thus arrested.

Radio Iran Reports Arrest of Air Force Personnel
GF171629 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] According to a report by nationalist sources, 47 Air Force officers and NCO's have been arrested on the order of the state prosecutor, Musavi-Kho'iniha, for opposing the regime and plotting to overthrow the regime of mullahs.

Pakistani Police Indict 228 Muslims in Quetta
LD170745 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 17, IRNA — Police in Quetta, Pakistan, submitted a 118-page indictment against 228 Muslims to the military tribunal of Baluchistan Province concerning last month's clashes in that city.

According to the indictment, these people will be tried together in a special military court on charges of trying to murder, create disturbance and turmoil as well as preventing government officials from carrying out their duties. A group of Shi'ite clergymen and scholars of the Imam Sadeq Theological Centre of Quetta are among those to be tried.

At least 100 people were killed or wounded during last month's clashes between police and Muslims in that city.